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WASHINGTON, DC—U.S. Congressman Peter DeFazio today announced that he secured grant consideration for the City of Coburg, which will provide the city special access to federal Rural Development funds in the next fiscal year to address wastewater needs in their community. The provision was included in the “Fiscal Year 2007, Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration and Related Agencies Appropriations Act,” which was approved by the House Appropriations Committee last night.

“Water infrastructure and water quality are important to fortifying the long-term economic viability of our communities,” DeFazio said. “Rural Development funds will help Coburg to build the necessary infrastructure that helps attract new businesses, create jobs and improve the economy.”

The City of Coburg would use the funds to build a wastewater system to protect and improve the region's groundwater. With more than 1,000 residents, the City of Coburg is one of the few cities of its size in Oregon that still lacks a citywide wastewater system.

In the late 1980s, several of the nation's leading recreational vehicle manufacturers settled in Coburg's enterprise zone and installed individual septic systems as a temporary solution. The city's ability to maintain current business and attract new companies is contingent upon the availability of a public wastewater system. Without federal assistance, the community would have to dramatically increase fees for residents and industrial users, which would discourage business growth.